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**Wang, Mengling and Yue, Hong and Bao, Jie and Leithead, William E. (2015) LIDAR-based wind speed modelling and control system design. In: 21st IEEE International Conference on Automation and Computing (ICAC 2015), 2015-09-11 - 2015-09-12, University of Strathclyde. ,**

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# LIDAR-based Wind Speed Modelling and Control System Design

Mengling Wang, Hong Yue, Jie Bao, William. E. Leithead

Department of Electronic and Electrical Engineering  
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, United Kingdom

E-mails: mengling.wang@strath.ac.uk; jie.bao@strath.ac.uk; hong.yue@strath.ac.uk; w.leithead@strath.ac.uk

**Abstract**—The main objective of this work is to explore the feasibility of using Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR) measurement and develop feedforward control strategy to improve wind turbine operation. Firstly the Pseudo LIDAR measurement data is produced using software package GH Bladed across a distance from the turbine to the wind measurement points. Next the transfer function representing the evolution of wind speed is developed. Based on this wind evolution model, a model-inverse feedforward control strategy is employed for the pitch control at above-rated wind conditions, in which LIDAR measured wind speed is fed into the feedforward. Finally the baseline feedback controller is augmented by the developed feedforward control. This control system is developed based on a Supergen 5MW wind turbine model linearised at the operating point, but tested with the nonlinear model of the same system. The system performances with and without the feedforward control channel are compared. Simulation results suggest that with LIDAR information, the added feedforward control has the potential to reduce blade and tower loads in comparison to a baseline feedback control alone.

**Keywords**- wind turbine control; Light Detection And Ranging (LIDAR); disturbance rejection; feedforward control; wind speed evolution

## I. INTRODUCTION

Advanced control is one of many options that can contribute to improved performance and decreased cost of wind energy production. High performance and reliable controllers could increase efficiency of power generation and reduce cost of operation and maintenance [1, 2]. In recent years, motivated by higher expectation of wind turbine performance, increased attention has been paid to new measurement technologies, among which LIDAR (Light Detection And Ranging) is able to provide the measurement of the wind upstream of the wind turbine and preview disturbance information. In the past decade, a number of wind turbine control strategies have been proposed, in which wind speed measurement are either provided or potentially provided by LIDAR.

During operation of wind measurement, a LIDAR emits a laser beam to the target wind field, and this laser beam is then backscattered by the small aerosols and particles in the wind field and then received by the LIDAR detector. The wind speed can therefore be calculated by employing the Doppler frequency shift between the two beams and the wavelength of the laser beams. With the help of preview wind measurement, feedforward control strategy is introduced into wind

turbine operations to reduce wind turbine structural loads [3, 4]. In some recent work, a feedforward channel is added to the baseline feedback control system. In this case, the feedforward controller can be designed independently of the feedback controller and will not affect the closed-loop stability. In [3], real LIDAR wind measurements information is used in wind turbine control systems instead of using an effective wind speed, where the results show reduction of tower and blade fatigue loads at high turbulent wind speeds. In [5], two feedforward controllers were designed to combine with two baseline feedback controllers, one applying model-inverse feedforward control for collective pitch control, and the other applying a shaped compensator for individual pitch control. Both of them enabled wind speed measurements that could be potentially provided by LIDAR as inputs to the feedforward controllers. An adaptive feedforward controller was proposed based on filtered-x recursive least algorithm [6].

Model predictive control (MPC) has proved to be an effective tool for multivariable constrained control systems, such as wind turbines. Henriksen et al. present the nonlinear MPC algorithm using future wind speeds in the prediction horizon [7]. In [8], an approach is proposed to deal with optimization problem of MPC. The nonlinear wind turbine model is linearised at different operating points, which are determined by the effective wind speed on the rotor disc. LIDAR wind speed measurement is used as a scheduling parameter.

While most of the research work concentrates on testing the load reduction performance by introducing LIDAR wind speed measurements, the energy capture performance of LIDAR-based control in below rated conditions was also investigated [9]. However, their results suggest that LIDAR-based control has limited improvements on energy capture. Therefore, applying LIDAR measurements in above rated pitch control could be more beneficial. The feasibility of applying LIDAR into wind turbine control systems needs further investigation. This motivates the work in the present paper. In this work, a wind evolution model is initially developed using the pseudo-LIDAR measurement data produced by Bladed, based on which a feedforward controller is designed and integrated to a baseline feedback controller.

The rest of the paper is organised as follows. In Section II, the details about the feedforward controller design are introduced. The wind speed evolution model is developed in Section III. Simulation studies are

conducted using an industrial-scale wind turbine model and the results are discussed in Section IV. The conclusions are summarized in Section V.

## II. FEEDFORWARD CONTROLLER DESIGN

### A. Feedback Baseline Controller

A standard baseline wind turbine controller normally consists of two parts. One is the torque controller which accounts for below rated operation, and the other is the pitch controller which accounts for above rated operation. In below rated conditions, torque demand is employed to ensure the tracking of the maximum power coefficient so that the maximum energy capture is achieved. In above rated conditions, pitch demand is employed to assure the generated power being maintained not to exceed its rated value, see [10] and [11]. The conventional feedback pitch control diagram is shown in Fig. 1, which is taken as the baseline controller.

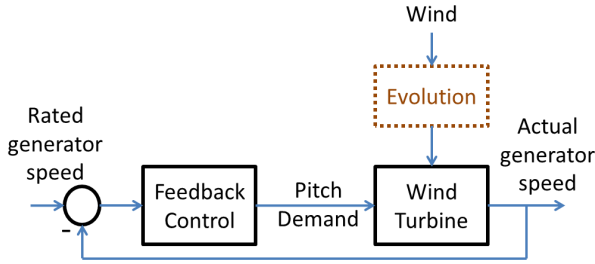


Figure 1. Block diagram of baseline feedback wind turbine control

### B. Feedforward Controller

LIDAR is able to provide preview information of wind disturbances at various distances in front of wind turbines. This feature can be used in feedforward control to improve disturbance rejection. This research augments the feedback pitch controller with a feedforward control term (see Fig. 2) to alleviate turbine loads in above rated wind speed conditions. Fig. 2 shows a model-inverse-based strategy for designing feedforward controllers. The linear model-inverse feedforward controller is used to cancel the effect from the turbulence in wind speed on the wind turbine generator speed.

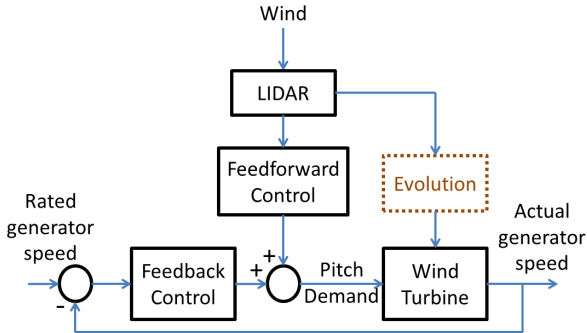


Figure 2. Combined feedback and feedforward control

Based on Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, a feedforward control scheme is developed and shown in Fig. 3. The primary control goal of the whole control system is to maintain the actual greater speed  $\omega_{g\_actual}$  at rated generator speed value  $\omega_{g\_rated}$  in the presence of varying wind  $v$  at above

rated conditions by adjusting the total pitch angle command  $\beta_c$ .  $v_T$  is the turbine wind speed, which indicates the wind speed approaching the turbine blades.  $v$  evolves to  $v_T$  on its way to the turbine and its variation disturbs the wind turbine system. The block  $P_E$  represents this evolution. The measurement of wind speed by a LIDAR sensor is  $v_L$  (line of sight wind speed).  $P_L$  is the LIDAR system transferring  $v$  to  $v_L$ .  $FB$  is the feedback controller and  $FF$  is the feedforward controller. The linear wind turbine model includes subsystems  $P_{\omega_e \beta_c}$  and  $P_{\omega_e v_t}$ .  $P_{\omega_e \beta_c}$  maps collective blade pitch error  $\beta$  to generator speed error  $\omega_e$  ( $\omega_{g\_actual} - \omega_{g\_rated}$ ) and  $P_{\omega_e v_t}$  maps  $v_T$  to  $\omega_e$ . The output of feedforward controller  $\beta_{FF}$  is added to the feedback pitch angle  $\beta_{FB}$  of collective pitch feedback controller.

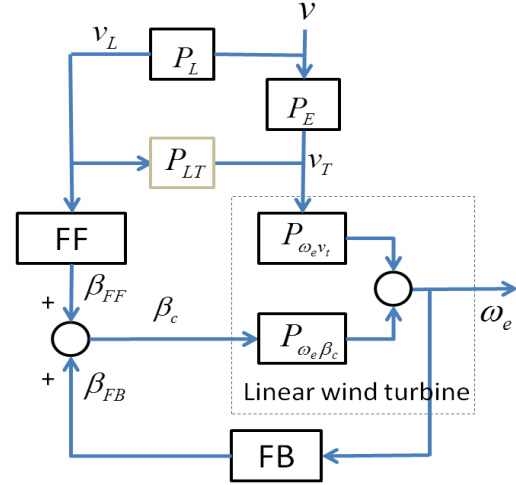


Figure 3. Feedforward control scheme

Following the control strategy in Fig. 3, we have

$$\omega_e = (v \cdot P_L \cdot FF + \omega_e \cdot FB) \cdot P_{\omega_e \beta_c} + v \cdot P_E \cdot P_{\omega_e v_t} \quad (1)$$

Since it is expected that the tracking error of generator speed should be zero, i.e.,  $\omega_e = 0$  [6],

$$v \cdot P_L \cdot P_{\omega_e \beta_c} \cdot FF = -v \cdot P_E \cdot P_{\omega_e v_t} \quad (2)$$

The feedforward controller is solved as

$$FF = -P_{\omega_e \beta_c}^{-1} \cdot P_{\omega_e v_t} \cdot P_E \cdot P_L^{-1} \quad (3)$$

where  $P_{\omega_e \beta_c}^{-1}$  and  $P_{\omega_e v_t}$  can be obtained from turbine modelling, but wind evolution  $P_E$  and LIDAR system  $P_L$  are very complex and difficult to model. In this research, the transfer function between  $v_L$  and  $v_T$ , which is  $P_E \cdot P_L^{-1}$  is approximated by a transfer function

$$P_{LT}(s) = \frac{S_{LT}(s)}{S_{LL}(s)} \quad (4)$$

where  $S_{LT}$  is the cross spectrum between the LIDAR measurements and the turbine wind speed,  $S_{LL}$  is the auto spectrum of the LIDAR measurements across the distance from the measurement point to wind turbine blades.

The feedforward controller is then written as

$$FF = -P_{\omega_e \beta_c}^{-1} \cdot P_{\omega_e v_t} \cdot P_{LT} \quad (5)$$

It is remarkable that the non-minimum phase zeros contained in  $P_{\omega_e\beta_c}$  would become poles that cause the system to be unstable after inverting. Therefore, a stable approximation should be used instead of the exact inverse of  $P_{\omega_e\beta_c}$ . Related work will be introduced later.

In the next section, the evolution of LIDAR measurements across the distance from the measurement point to wind turbine blades is developed. The cross spectrum between turbine wind speed and LIDAR measurements and the auto spectrum of LIDAR measurements are calculated.

### III. WIND SPEED EVOLUTION MODELLING

#### A. LIDAR Wind Speed Simulation

According to the feedforward control loop in Fig. 3, LIDAR measured wind speed is fed into the feedforward controller. In this work, the simulated LIDAR measurements are used in modelling. Taylor's frozen turbulence hypothesis is employed, which assumes that the turbulent wind field is unaffected when approaching the turbine and moving with average wind speed.

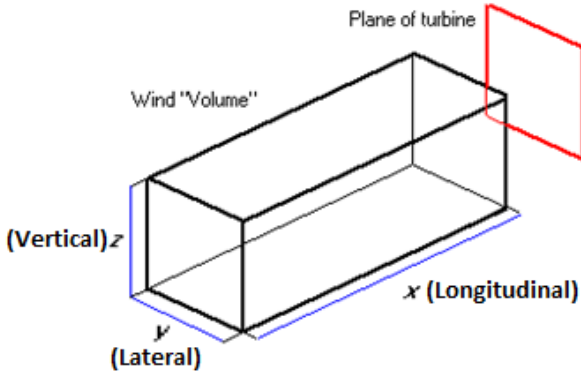


Figure 4. 3D wind volume simulated by Bladed

The continuous LIDAR shoots a continuous beam of light to the atmosphere and again all particles in the atmosphere, along the light of signal of the beam will reflect some of this light. These systems use the same frequency shift in the reflection, to determine the velocity of the particles. Each wind measurement is a vector with components at different directions. Here, only the component of the wind vector in laser beam direction (line of sight) wind speed is detected. It is constructed by averaging over the circular trajectory [12].

TABLE I. CHARACTERISES OF 3D TURBULENCE

Turbulence length scales		Component of turbulence		
		Longitudinal	Lateral	Vertical
Along x	m	244.671	58.8681	21.1883
Along y	m	79.6605	76.6657	13.7971
Along z	m	59.2508	28.5117	20.5243
Turbulence intensities:	%	16.0108	12.5465	8.92472

Bladed uses a 3-dimensional turbulent wind field with defined spectral and spatial covariance characteristics to represent real atmospheric turbulence. This option will give the most realistic predictions of loads and performance in normal conditions. In Bladed, wind speed is displayed as a vector of 3 components: Longitudinal component  $x(t)$ , Lateral component  $y(t)$  and Vertical component  $z(t)$ , see Fig. 4. The parameters set up for the wind field simulation are listed in Table I. In this work, rectangular scan circle is used instead of round circle.

According to the scan principle of LIDAR instrument and Bladed display of wind field in Fig. 4,  $v_T(t_T, x_T)$  and  $v_{Li}(t_{Li}, x_{Li}) (i = 1, \dots, 6)$  are points sampled from Bladed. Wind field in the x direction to represent the turbine wind speed and LIDAR measurements.  $v_T(x_T = 0m)$  is assumed as the turbine wind speed, which is the mean wind fluctuation over the turbine plane.  $v_{Li}(t_{Li}, x_{Li}) (i = 1, \dots, 6)$  are assumed as LIDAR measurements with preview distances of 30m, 60m, 90m, 120m, 160m and 190m respectively ( $x_{L1} = 30m, x_{L2} = 60m, x_{L3} = 90m, x_{L4} = 120m, x_{L5} = 160m, x_{L6} = 190m$ ). Each wind speed is the mean wind fluctuation over an area lying in the y-z plane. The distribution of all wind speed points is shown in Fig. 5.

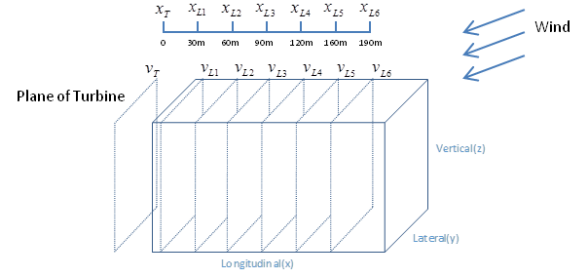


Figure 5. Distribution of the turbine wind speed and LIDAR measurements

In Fig. 5, the wind speed evolves in the direction of distance x. There is no cross correlation between  $v_T(t_T, x_T)$  and  $v_{Li}(t_{Li}, x_{Li}) (i = 1, \dots, 6)$ . Therefore, the strategy of sampling points in the wind field is needed to be modified.

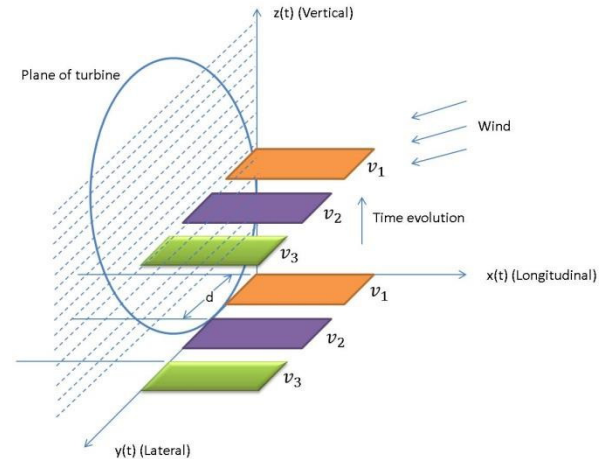


Figure 6. Schematics of wind speed sampling in Bladed

As the Bladed wind field is frozen and isotropic, the variation of the wind speed fluctuation in the x direction at a point can be equally represented by the component in the y direction as well as the component in the z direction. Hence, as depicted in Fig. 6, the cross correlation between the mean wind speed fluctuations over two areas displaced by a distance  $d$  in the x direction can be estimated from the areas lying in x-y planes separated by a distance of  $d$  in the y direction and the fluctuations in the z direction. Time evolution can be represented by moving the plates through the wind field in the z direction. Hence, the distribution of turbine wind speed and LIDAR measurements can be modified from Fig. 5 to Fig. 7.  $v_T(t_T, x_T)$  and  $v_{Li}(t_{Li}, x_{Li})(i = 1, \dots, 6)$  represent mean wind fluctuations in x-y plane, with time evolution in the z direction.

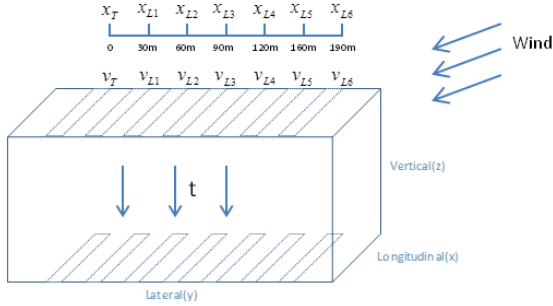


Figure 7. Modified distribution of the turbine wind speed and LIDAR measurements

## B. Cross Spectrum of Wind Speed

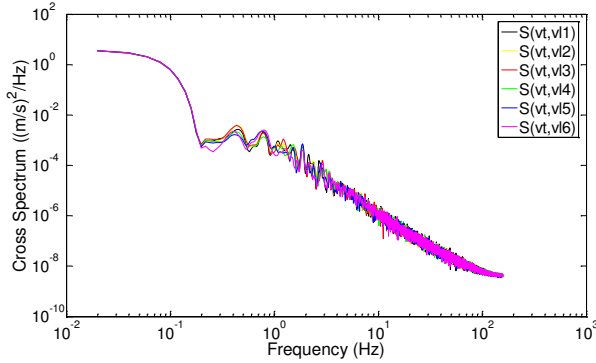


Figure 8. Cross spectrum of the turbine wind speed and LIDAR measurements

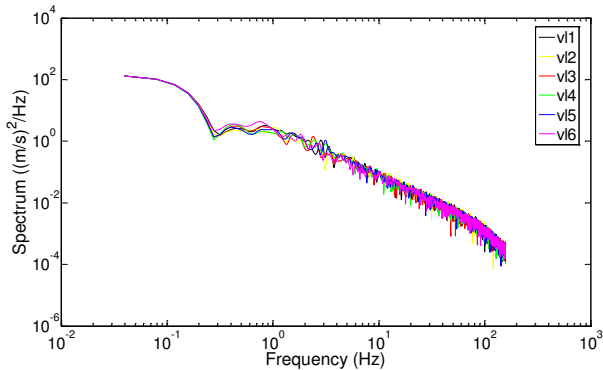


Figure 9. Auto spectrum of LIDAR measurements

Fig. 8 shows the cross spectrum of the turbine wind speed  $v_T$  and LIDAR measurements. The auto spectrum of  $v_{Li}(t_{Li}, x_{Li})(i = 1, \dots, 6)$  can be seen in Fig. 9.

## C. Transfer Function

Following the results of cross spectrum  $S_{LT}$  and auto spectrum  $S_{LL}$ , the transfer function  $P_{LT}$  in equation (4) is approximated by a first order low-pass filter using system identification method, see [13] for details.

$$P_{LT}(s) = -\frac{8.102 \times 10^{-7}}{s + 0.02831} \quad (6)$$

The transfer function model  $P_{LT}$  has been validated against cross spectrum  $S(v_t, v_{L1})$ , see Fig. 10. It can be seen that the shapes of the simulated model output and the measured model output match reasonably well. Therefore, the transfer function is acceptable for the controller design.

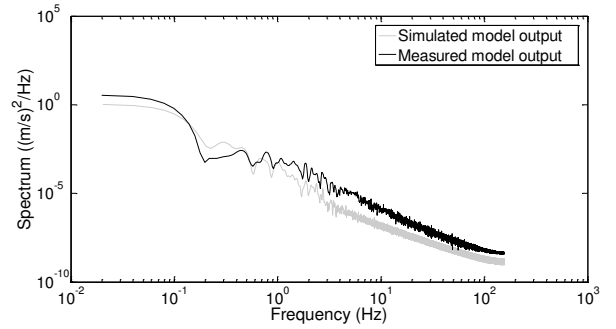


Figure 10. Comparison of model output from (5) and 'measured' model output

## IV. SIMULATION STUDY

In this work, the simulation study is implemented using the Supergen 5MW exemplar wind turbine model developed in the University of Strathclyde. This is a non-linear model that is constructed in Simulink. It contains 3 main parts, the pitch mechanism, the aero-rotor and the drive train model. The main turbine parameters are listed in Table II. More details can be found in [9, 14]. A matched 5 MW Supergen feedback controller is used here as the baseline controller.

TABLE II. WIND TURBINE PARAMETERS [14]

Turbine parameters	
Rotor radius [m]	63
Effective blade length [m]	45
Hub height [m]	90
Maximum generator speed in generation mode [rad/s]	120
Cut in wind speed [m/s]	4
Cut out wind speed [m/s]	25
Nominal generator torque [Nm]	46372.7
Air density [kg/m <sup>3</sup> ]	1.225
Gearbox ratio	97

Considering one input and output in each case, the nonlinear wind turbine model can be linearised at the

operating point, and a linearised state-space model is then produced involving 11 state variables. This state-space model can be further written as a continuous transfer function model. The simulation in this work is conducted at 16m/s mean wind speed and the wind speed fluctuation are modeled by a set of small steps added to the mean wind speed. The transfer functions,  $P_{\omega_e \beta_c}$  and  $P_{\omega_e v_t}$  are obtained by discretization of the two continuous transfer function models, respectively, with a sampling rate of 0.0125s.

The transfer function between the generator speed error to the pitch demand is developed

$$P_{\omega_e \beta_c}(z) = \frac{B(z)}{W_1(z)} \quad (7)$$

in which

$$B(z) = \frac{(z^2 - 1.1095z + 0.902)(z^2 - 2.0502z + 1.0546)(z^2 - 2z + 1.0005)(z^2 - 1.9996z + 1)(z + 1.1532)(z - 0.2523)}{(z^2 + 0.3156z + 0.624)(z^2 - 1.9796z + 0.9922)(z^2 - 1.9528z + 0.9570)(z^2 - 2.0022z + 0.9937)(z^2 - 1.9918z + 1.0067)(z - 0.9942)}$$

$$W_1(z) = \frac{(z^2 + 0.3156z + 0.624)(z^2 - 1.9796z + 0.9922)(z^2 - 1.9528z + 0.9570)(z^2 - 2.0022z + 0.9937)(z^2 - 1.9918z + 1.0067)(z - 0.9942)}{(z^2 + 0.3156z + 0.624)(z^2 - 1.9796z + 0.9922)(z^2 - 1.9528z + 0.9570)(z^2 - 2.0022z + 0.9937)(z^2 - 1.9918z + 1.0067)(z - 0.9942)}$$

The transfer function between the generator speed error to the approaching blade wind speed is written as

$$P_{\omega_e v_t}(z) = \frac{V(z)}{W_2(z)} \quad (8)$$

with

$$V(z) = \frac{(2.5921 \times 10^{-5})(z^2 - 1.9948z + 1.0004)(z^2 - 1.9992z + 0.9997)(z^2 - 1.9992z + 0.9997)(z + 9.1961)(z + 1.0895)(z - 0.2666)(z + 0.1549)}{(z^2 - 1.9948z + 1.0004)(z^2 - 1.9992z + 0.9997)(z^2 - 1.9992z + 0.9997)(z + 9.1961)(z + 1.0895)(z - 0.2666)(z + 0.1549)}$$

$$W_2(z) = \frac{(z^2 + 0.3156z + 0.624)(z^2 - 1.9796z + 0.9921)(z^2 - 1.9528z + 0.9562)(z^2 - 2.0022z + 1.0028)(z^2 - 1.9918z + 0.9923)(z - 1.0002)}{(z^2 + 0.3156z + 0.624)(z^2 - 1.9796z + 0.9921)(z^2 - 1.9528z + 0.9562)(z^2 - 2.0022z + 1.0028)(z^2 - 1.9918z + 0.9923)(z - 1.0002)}$$

The feedforward controller is obtained from (5) that gives

$$FF(z) = -\frac{W_1(z)V(z)P_{LT}}{B(z)W_2(z)} \quad (9)$$

It can be seen that the developed feedforward controller is of a high order which is inconvenient for tuning. This model is therefore firstly reduced by non-minimum phase zeros ignore (NPZ-Ignore) technique to remove non-minimum phase zeros, and further reduced to 3<sup>rd</sup>-order controller as shown in (10) via approximation fitting [15]. In order to fine tune the reduced-order controller, a tuning factor,  $k_{FF}$ , is introduced in the transfer function of  $FF$ . This tuning function can also address modelling uncertainty to some extent. In this work, the designed value for  $k_{FF}$  is  $2.336 \times 10^{-5}$  to start with. The fine-tuned setting is  $k_{FF} = 2 \times 10^{-4}$ ,

$$FF(z) = k_{FF} \times \frac{(z+9.1961)(z-0.2666)(z+0.1549)}{z^3} \quad (10)$$

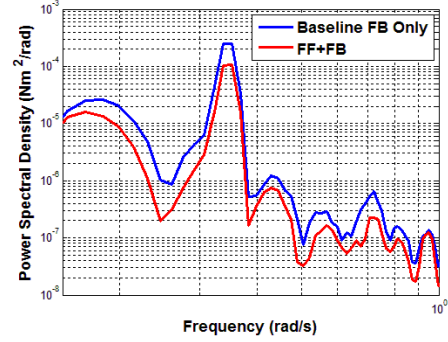


Figure 11. Comparison of the pitch angle before and after the addition of the feedforward controller

As shown in Fig. 11, with the feedforward controller, a decrease in the pitch angle demand power spectral density (PSD) is achieved. The decrease not only saves the driving energy but also helps to expand lifetime of pitch actuators.

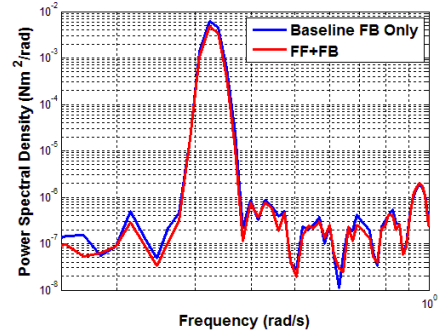


Figure 12. Comparison of the tower acceleration before and after the addition of the feedforward controller

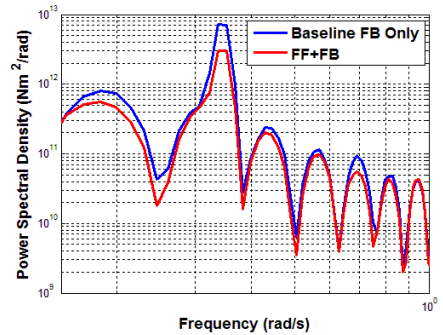


Figure 13. Comparison of the out-of-plane rotor torque before and after the addition of the feedforward controller

Compared with the baseline feedback control alone, reductions of the tower fore-aft acceleration and out-of-plane rotor torque PSD can be seen in Fig. 12 and 13 for the proposed controller. With these improvements, the oscillation of the tower and the load on the rotor are reduced and thereby the lifetime of the tower and rotor components could be expanded. Moreover, the loads that propagate from tower and rotor to drive train can also be alleviated.



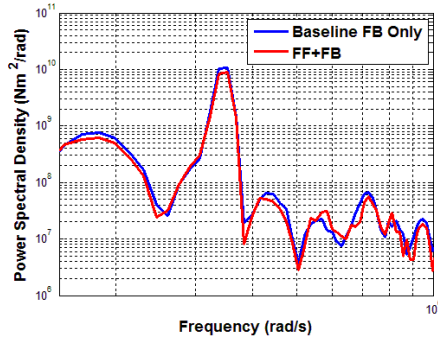


Figure 14. Comparison of the generator power before and after the addition of the feedforward controller

The comparison is also made for the generated power, as shown in Fig. 14. It can be seen that with or without the feedforward control channel, there is no clear difference between the power generated. This indicates that by introducing the feedforward controller for disturbance rejection, the power generation performance can still be maintained.

## V. CONCLUSIONS

In this paper, the control strategy for designing LIDAR-based feedforward controllers has been presented. A model-inversed feedforward pitch controller is combined with the baseline feedback pitch controller of the Supergen 5MW wind turbine model.

The LIDAR measurements and the turbine wind speed are simulated by Bladed. The cross spectrum between them and the auto spectrum of LIDAR wind speed measurements are studied. The results are used to develop the transfer function representing the evolution of LIDAR measurements across the distance from the measurement point to the wind turbine blades. At last, the feedforward controller is designed based on the Supergen linear wind turbine model and the transfer function.

The performance of the feedforward controller is evaluated at wind speed 16m/s. The Simulink simulation study shows that the feedforward/feedback controller has achieved improved performance on reducing the fluctuations of the pitch angle demand, tower acceleration and the out-of-plane torque of the rotor without degrading the energy capture seriously. It should be noted that in above-rated operating conditions, the main function of the baseline feedback pitch control is to maintain the generated power at rated power level. For large scale wind turbines, load reduction is another crucial control target, which can be handled by introducing extra feedback loops and/or feedforward channels. In our work, we consider a feedforward controller mainly to take advantages of the more comprehensive LIDAR measurement information, which should help to reduce the effects of disturbance brought by the wind speed uncertainty. In fact, the feedforward controller design can be regarded as independent of the feedback controller design, which means the feedback control performance won't be deteriorated by the feedforward channel.

In our future work, the performance of feedforward controller and other LIDAR-based control strategies will be evaluated by calculating Damage Equivalent Loads (DEL), which can give more apparent comparisons between different control options in load reduction of large-scale wind turbine systems.

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